

I have received, in reply to an inquiry, a letter from E. E. Austen who has charge of the collections in the British Museum, and who is qualified to give authentic information, stating that the above facts as to type are correct.

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#### NEOCELATORIA FEROX WALTON A SYNONYM OF CHAETOPHLEPS SETOSA COQ.

By W. R. WALTON, *Bureau of Entomology.*

I am indebted to Dr. J. M. Aldrich for calling my attention to the probability of the above mentioned synonymy. A comparison of the types shows them to be identical. Mr. Coquillett did not describe the peculiar armature of the female abdomen in his original description of the genus or species.

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#### A NEW ORTALID FLY.

By NATHAN BANKS, *Bureau of Entomology.*

**Pseudotephritis appoximata** new species.

Similar to *P. vau* Say, but larger and marks on the wings different. Head and thorax marked as in *P. vau*, the same large brown spots, but on thorax the minute brown marks are rather more numerous. On abdomen the third segment is mostly pale, with only minute dark spots, the following segments wholly dark; legs marked as in *P. vau*. In wings the marks on costa and at tip are black, the others fainter, more yellowish brown; the clouds over cross-veins not connected, that over posterior cross-vein extending toward the cloud below preapical costal spot; and that over the discal cross-vein extending to the middle costal spot, the outer margin of the broad sub-basal cloud is much interrupted at the fourth vein. The posterior cross-vein is as near the outer margin as to the anterior cross-vein. The macrochaetae of head and thorax are as in *P. vau*. Length, 7.5 mm.

From Falls Church, Virginia, July 15.

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#### NOTE ON A CLASSIFICATION OF SEXUAL CHARACTERS.

By CHARLES H. T. TOWNSEND.

Sexual characters have long been distinguished as either primary or secondary. The writer believes that the so-called "secondary sexual characters" may profitably be classed as *secondary* and

*tertiary*, and hereby proposes these terms with definitions of the three resulting classes.

*Primary sexual characters* are those which relate to the true organs of generation,—the internal reproductive system and the external genitals.

*Secondary sexual characters* are those which relate to the external structures immediately accessory to the true organs of generation. They include in the muscoid flies the hypopygium of both sexes in its widest sense, being such structures as the ovipositor, piercer, ventral carina, hypopygial claspings organs—all extra-primary structures directly functional in copulation, oviposition and larviposition, or specially designed for the reception of such structures during rest.

*Tertiary sexual characters* include all others that are ever distinctive of sex and may be defined as those which pertain to structures not directly functional in either copulation, oviposition or larviposition, nor adapted for reception of organs directly concerned in these functions. For example, the elongated claws of certain male flies are indirectly functional in copulation, but so are the legs and the whole body for that matter. Neither is to be considered as immediately accessory to the true organs of generation.

The mass of sexual characters in the muscoid flies are to be classed as tertiary. A great number of external anatomical structures are here involved, representing nearly all parts of the body. The tertiary sexual characters are not at all uniform as to the structures that they affect, but vary greatly in different groups of these flies. A detailed enumeration of them is already in manuscript, and will be published in due time.

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## CERATOPOGONINÆ SUCKING THE BLOOD OF OTHER INSECTS.

BY FREDERICK KNAB, *Bureau of Entomology.*

In discussing Ceratopogoninæ as enemies of other insects in a recent number of this journal,<sup>1</sup> observations by two different authors were cited of these midges sucking the body-fluids of *Anopheles* mosquitoes. I find that I overlooked a third note on this subject by Dr. A. T. Stanton, which calls attention to an earlier record by Capt. C. J. Fearnside and adds observations made by himself in the Malay Peninsula.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ceratopogoninae sucking the blood of caterpillars. Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., vol. 16, p. 63-66, 1914.

<sup>2</sup> A Ceratopogon parasitic upon anopheline mosquitos. Paludism, no. 5, p. 64, 1912.